

17th Annual Oxford Naval Symposium

'Shipwreck!'

Exploring resonant themes in the history of ship losses.

To include:

The Alan Villiers Lecture

A tribute to the late Alan J Villiers, Master in Square Rig

'Witness to a Sinking'

Speaker: Martin Muncaster,

Television and Radio Broadcaster.

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAMME

St Anne's College, University of Oxford

Saturday 11th May 2019



Britannia Naval Research Association

To Preserve. Promote. Research – from Drake to Dreadnought and Beyond

Participants in the Symposium

Dr Vaughan Michell DPhil(Oxon) MBA MRINA : The Chairman and co-founder of the BNRA, Dr Michell is also the editor of *The BNRA Journal*. He trained as a naval architect and was involved in building the Type 42 destroyers at Vosper Thornycroft and worked on the designs of corvettes, fast patrol boats and GRP mine hunters. His special interest is the evolution of armoured warships between 1860 and 1920 on which he has written many papers.

Group Captain Keith Bennett BSc(Eng) CEng FIET RAF: After 31 years as an electrical engineer in the Royal Air Force, Keith entered a second career in IT services, using his extensive experience of aircraft systems to work on projects for the Fleet Air Arm and the RAF. Now retired from business, Keith travels extensively, paints and has an interest in the history of naval 'big guns'.

James Walters is a maritime investigator specialising in cargo fraud, ship collisions and unusual vessel losses. He has recently investigated the extensive damage being done to WW2 warship graves in S.E. Asia. James has appeared in television documentaries on the Mystery of the Mary Celeste and Captain Bligh's Voyage in the Bounty's Launch. James' passion is the 18thc British navy and particularly the early exploration of the Pacific by, Carteret, Wallis, Anson and Cook. As a keen sailor James focuses his time in classic yachts and tall ships. He sees gaining practical experience as the best means of acquiring an authentic view of how the great explorers operated.

John Wain : Secretary and Deputy Chairman of the BNRA, of which he is co-founder, John's first career was in bio-medical science, later developing a business in the antiques trade specialising in nautical artefacts, which led him into maritime history. John has written many articles on naval subjects and promotes the cause of naval and maritime history through his presentations centred on historic artefacts and their practical use.

Susan Amos Deputy secretary BNRA and distributor/deputy editor of the association's monthly 'e-mail' Newsletter. Susan is a professional artist who has a passion for studying Nelson and Napoleonic naval history particularly that associated with the memorials of seamen from this period. A founder member of TARS she regularly publishes papers and presents her research to interested audiences.

Geoffrey Huband

Dr Brendan O'Farrell is a medical practitioner who sails in his own yacht out of Plymouth with his wife Sarah as crew! This proximity has led Brendan to an appreciation of seamanship and an interest in naval history as he sails over the same grounds and visits the same havens as did our famous forebears. Now a regular BNRA researcher and presenter Brendan is completing a diploma in Maritime history

Cmdr John Bingeman RN rtd

Martin Muncaster is a radio and television broadcaster of wide experience. After his training at the guildhall school of music and drama and two years national service in the Royal Navy he joined Southern Television as an announcer and newsreader. He then moved to the BBC as a newsreader at Broadcasting House and became one of Britain's best known voices. He has featured on many television and film documentaries and is well known to radio 4 listeners. In 1978 Martin published the biography of his artist father Claude Muncaster who served in the RNVR in WW11.

Andrew Choong

'Shipwreck!'

Symposium Chairman: Group Captain Keith Bennett RAF
Presentation Director/Proceedings Editor: Dr Vaughan Michell, BNRA Chairman
Technical Director: John Foreman Symposium Director: John Wain
Registration: Mary Johnstone; Francis Miller

Forenoon Sessions

10:00	Welcome by Dr Vaughan Michell, Chairman BNRA	
10:05	Introduction to the ONS Forenoon Sessions	Keith Bennett
10:10	<i>Sinking of the High Seas Fleet 21st June 1919'</i>	Dr Vaughan Michell
10:40	<i>'Introduction to the Alan Villiers Lecture series'</i>	a Villiers
10:50	'The Alan Villiers Lecture: Witness to a Sinking'	Martin Muncaster
11.30	Stand-easy: refreshments with displays in the foyer.	
12.00	<i>'HMS Anson ashore 29th December 1807(symposium poster subject)'</i>	Geoffrey Huband
12.30	<i>'The Loss of the Wahine, off Wellington, New Zealand 50 years ago'</i>	Dr Brendan O'Farrel
13.00	Luncheon with wines in the College Refectory.	

Afternoon Sessions

14:00	Introduction to the Afternoon Sessions	Keith Bennett
14.05	<i>'HMS Invincible strikes the Hammond's Knoll 16th March 1801'</i>	Susan Amos
14:35	<i>'Thirty-three Years as a Government Wreck Licensee'</i>	John Bingeman
15.05	<i>'Raising the Edinburgh's Gold, 1981'</i>	Mike O'Meara
15.45	Stand-easy: refreshments with displays in the foyer.	
16:15	<i>'The Fate of Force Z and the Royal Naval Wrecks in S.E. Asia'</i>	James Walters
16.45	<i>'A Wreck of the Coral Sea 8th May 1942'</i>	Andrew Choong
17.35	Looking forward to ONS 2020	John Wain
17:30	Close of Conference	Dr Vaughan Michell



Britannia Naval Research Association

To Preserve, Promote, Research – from Drake to Dreadnought and Beyond

The **Britannia Naval Research Association** welcomes you to the seventeenth annual Oxford Naval Symposium. Working with other groups on specific topics within the field of naval history, the Association has a broad remit to preserve maritime artefacts, to promote historic and current naval affairs and to encourage research into the naval and maritime history of all nations and all periods. Our members have a wide range of interests and a variety of relevant experience, knowledge and skills ranging from the practical to the theoretical.

Amongst our current or recently completed projects are:

- A re-appraisal of the *Resolution* schooner (continuing).
- Working reconstruction of naval ordnance and weaponry such as the Whitehead Torpedo, breech loading weapons and fuses for muzzle loading guns.
- Historical studies of the naval side of the First World War with the publication of:
- The first BNRA monograph '*With the going down of the Sun*'
- The inauguration of project '**Deep Water**', a wide ranging assessment of the impact of information gained through Maritime Archaeology on current historical ship reconstructions and their interpretation.
- Hosting the 18th Oxford Naval Symposium, 16th May 2020, at St Anne's College

Please put this date in your Diary!

Meetings:

We hold regular monthly meetings at the Bear Hotel, Woodstock, near Oxford, at which our members and guest speakers introduce their research findings, describe significant naval actions or ship studies including the showing artefacts of maritime interest. Practical events are also held from time to time, enabling experts to demonstrate nautical artefacts or naval tactics. Specialist summer visits are also arranged.

BNRA Journal:

Articles reporting new research and other matters of naval and maritime interest are published in the bi-annual *BNRA Journal* which is free to members.

BNRA Membership:

Membership of the association is open to all, either as an Associate or as a full Member.

The Association also has correspondents across the globe including Eire, Spain, the Netherlands, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Annual Dinner:

The Association's Annual Awards Night Dinner this year is on Saturday 9th November 2019 at which the Sir Robert Craven Trophy will be presented to a person or institution who has demonstrated significant achievement in the preservation of naval artefacts or the promotion of naval history. Further details will be available nearer the date.